

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please amend the Abstract as follows:

An image compression and decompression apparatus—~~comprises~~ includes a identification section, a conversion section, a characteristics correction section, an image compression section, and a decompression section. The identification section identifies given color image information and outputs an identification signal. The conversion section converts color image information to block-based color image information having a specified length. The characteristics correction section corrects block-based color image information with respect to characteristics thereof in units of the blocks based on an identification signal output from the identification section. The image compression section compresses a corrected image in units of blocks and stores the compressed image in a storage area. The decompression section decompresses a compressed image in units of blocks.